Application No. 10/048,014   Docket No. 449122022500

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims found below.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method to determine cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information in operation administration maintenance cells and resource management cells, comprising:

inserting the administration maintenance and resource management cells between cells of a virtual link with a guaranteed frame rate within an ATM communications system and/or ATM communications terminal equipment; and

determining the cell ~~lost~~ loss priority information of the cell to be transmitted directly [[of]]to the respective virtual link, and inserting the cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information into the operation administration maintenance and/or resource management cells as current cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information, wherein each cell of a frame has a same cell loss priority before inserting and after determining.

2. (Currently amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information of the respective cell can be assigned different loss priorities.

3. (Currently amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information comprises a one- bit piece of information.

4. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the operation administration maintenance and resource management cells are structured as operation administration maintenance and resource management cells according to standard ITU-T I.610 and ITU-T I.371.

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5. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein in the absence of a cell to be transmitted directly, the virtual link inserts a given standard cell loss priority information into the operation, maintenance, administration and/or resource management cell as current cell loss priority information.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended)   The method according to claim 2, wherein the cell loss ~~lost~~ priority information comprises a one- bit piece of information.

8. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 2, wherein the operation administration maintenance and resource management cells are structured as operation administration maintenance and resource management cells according to standard ITU-T I.610 and ITU-T I.371.

9. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 3, wherein the operation administration maintenance and resource management cells are structured as operation administration maintenance and resource management cells according to standard ITU-T I.610 and ITU-T I.371.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 2, wherein in the absence of a cell to be transmitted directly, the virtual link inserts a given standard cell loss priority information into the operation, maintenance, administration and/or resource management cell as current cell loss priority information.

12. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 3, wherein in the absence of a cell to be transmitted directly, the virtual link inserts a given standard cell loss priority information into the

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operation, maintenance, administration and/or resource management cell as current cell loss priority information.

13. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 4, wherein in the absence of a cell to be transmitted directly, the virtual link inserts a given standard cell loss priority information into the operation, maintenance, administration and/or resource management cell as current cell loss priority information.

14-17. (Canceled)

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